

This newsletter, from the Diocesan Education Team, is sent to Church school Headteachers, foundation governors, chairs of governors and clergy.

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Education newsletter



January 2023

News from the Diocese

Dear Colleagues

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. We aim to provide news and information and to signpost you to training and resources which you will find helpful.

Members of the largest teaching union, the National Education Union (NEU) have voted for strike action in England over pay. This will take place over four days this term in our region: 1 February, 1 March and 15 and 16 March. The impact on schools will vary, from minimal impact to partial closure to full closure. Schools are working within DfE guidance (see below), seeking to recognise the right to strike and to minimise disruption to pupils' learning.

Whilst it remains this Government's ambition that all schools should be part of a strong MAT, the proposed timescale to bring this about by 2030 no longer exists as the Schools Bill will not now proceed. We await the Labour party manifesto but it seems likely that it will support the continuation of the current hybrid system of maintained schools and academies. I thought you might like to see a map of church schools in the diocese in our four church school MATs, please click [here](#).

As ever, putting the best interests of children at the heart of our decision-making is key. As the cost of living crisis continues, may I commend all efforts by schools and churches to support families? Asking parents is a first step in engaging with them. Food banks and pop up shops run by local churches and uniform and book sales and swap shops run by schools can all help. Do let us know of creative ways in which you are making a difference.

Our training programme is designed to support you. With a new Agreed Syllabus for RE in Suffolk from September 2023, please see especially Gemma Taylor's training courses.

The Church of England website provides many prayers, which I commend to you- available [here](#). Here is just one, an example of a simple and yet profound prayer -



The Spring 2023 DARE (Diocesan Adviser's RE) bulletin provides the latest in RE news and important updates including training available on the new RE syllabus, a vote on the new KS1 Emmanuel Project unit, and a look at the new SIAMS framework 2023. The bulletin is available on our [website](#) together with past issues.



Lent and Easter
Gemma has collated resources for Lent and Easter - available on our website by clicking [here](#).

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

As a team, we are so grateful for all that you do to deliver a high quality education, deeply rooted in a Christian vision. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help.

With all good wishes from all the team,

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

Diocesan Board of Education

We are looking for two serving Headteachers to join the Diocesan Board of Education. The board meets in Ipswich four times a year in the afternoon. Headteachers play an important role in informing the work of the DBE in relation to church schools. For more information, please contact [Jane](#) or [Paul Ryle](#), Headteacher at Mellis CofE Primary who is an existing member



Admissions 2024-25

All voluntary aided schools, free schools and academies must determine their admission arrangements for the 2024/2025 school year by **28 February 2023** and publish on the school website by **15 March 2023** (even if they have not been changed from the previous year and a consultation was not required).

For any queries, please contact [Sue Todd](#).

School Visits

If you wish to request a visit from a bishop, please do contact the Bishop's Office:
[email](#) or telephone: 01473 252829.
You will need to plan well in advance because of busy diaries!



Where do I stand? Introducing the new Suffolk RE Syllabus 2023

Thursday 23 February 2023,
9.30am - 12.00pm via Zoom
This course aims to introduce the new Suffolk RE Agreed Syllabus 2023 and identify necessary changes to your current RE provision.

For more about the new RE Syllabus, please click [here](#).

To book on the training or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#).



Upcoming Diocesan courses this term

Leadership/Governance

- * Assessment for governors
- * Headteacher recruitment
- * Monitoring for governors

RE/CW

- * CW and RE for governors
- * Inspirational CW
- * the new RE Syllabus
- * Spiritual Development in Primary Schools

Further details of our training is available by clicking [here](#). To book, or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Acton CEVCP** and **Tudor CofE Primary Schools** which came first and second respectively in the Sudbury Upcycled Tyre Trail competition run by the community wardens. For more on this story, please click [here](#).

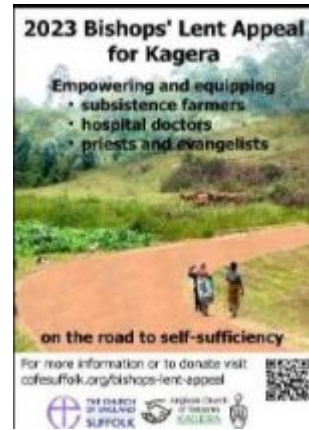
Congratulations to pupils at **Elveden CofE Primary Academy** who buried a time capsule underneath a new classroom. The time capsule includes information on the history of the school and Elveden Estate, as well as pictures of the school buildings, teachers and members of the staff and information about royal visits. For more on this story, please click [here](#).

In other news from **Elveden**, following being awarded the prestigious Artsmark Gold Award last year, Lorna Rourke, Headteacher, has written about how the school used the arts to strengthen areas of improvement. For the article, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to pupils at **Ixworth CofE Primary School** who created little angels as their Christmas tree decorations.

Also to pupils who sent their Christmas bunting to the Starlight Charity to decorate the children's wards in hospitals across Suffolk.



Every year in Lent, Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike encourage us to reflect as well as to give. This year's Lent appeal will be raising money for our link Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania. If you would like to fund-raise, e.g. by having a non school uniform day, further information is available [here](#). Gemma Taylor is putting together daily reflections on praying for Kagera which will be available shortly and will be sent to schools for use during collective worship or at class reflection time.



Monday 19 June 2023, 1.30pm

We will be holding our annual service of celebration for church schools at the Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds.

Wednesday 1 November 2023

This is the date for our annual church school leaders' conference this year.



The Red House and Snape Maltings develop projects and opportunities throughout the year for schools and have just launched this year's schools pack which details some of



Congratulations to pupils at **Mellis CofE Primary School** who celebrated Christmas with a Follow the Star walk across Mellis common to the church, for a Christingle and Inspiring Angels themed service.



the projects and other activities on offer. For more information, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Spring Forums via Zoom

Small Schools
Mon 27 February, 4pm

Chairs of Governors
Wed 15 March, 4pm

The Forums are free. For any queries or to book, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)



Congratulations to **Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP School, Framlingham** which received a card from King Charles III in response to the school's condolence messages which had been sent to Buckingham Palace.



Global Neighbours Accreditation Scheme

The Global Neighbours Team at Christian Aid is supporting our church schools with courageous advocacy through the Global Neighbours accreditation scheme. This involves termly meetings with our schools, the first of which was held on Wednesday 23 November with 19 schools attending. For the slides from this meeting, please click [here](#). For further information about the accreditation scheme, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to pupils at **St Botolph's CEVCP School** who voiced their concern about the state of the planet and inspired the SLT and Governing Body to start work on reducing the school's carbon footprint. Work began in August 2022 and is due to finish by early March. For further information on the school's decarbonisation project 2022-23, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to staff at **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** for the very festive Christmas card above. As pupils had been so amazing during the autumn term, staff surprised them with a staff panto of Cinderella at the end of term. For the moment when the Ugly Sisters, Gertrude and Griselda, made their first appearance, please click [here](#)!

Dates for future termly meetings:

- * Tuesday 31 January
- * Tuesday 20 June

Both sessions at 3.45 via Zoom To book or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#).

Beauty which felt it was an exciting way to encourage children to look at the beautiful area that they live in. Kelly McGrath, Headteacher writes: "The children were enthusiastic and engaged and were fascinated by the different lenses and effects that they could create. We are looking forward to seeing their work." The story was featured in the East Anglian Daily Times and is available [here](#).



Ofsted inspections

Outcomes

St Christopher's CofE Primary	Good
Stutton CofE Primary	Requires Improvement
Great Finborough CEVCP	Good

For the Attention of Headteachers

If you are retiring or resigning as Headteacher, please do let us know. Jane, Sue or Phil will attend meetings with your Governors to advise on the headship appointment, alongside the Local Authority. We can be in contact with your Chair of Governors and make sure that we are available for dates for shortlisting and interviews. Many thanks.

Do contact Sue or Phil if you would like them to be your external adviser for Headteacher performance management reviews.

News from the Church of England

Becoming a Net Zero Carbon school

Thursday 9 February 2023, 4pm

This webinar is part of a regular series for schools, aiming to become net zero carbon. This update covers:

- * NEW resources to help schools
- * what key milestones to include in your own action plan
- * the Energy Toolkit, now open for entry for 2022 data
- * two inspiring case study videos from Blackburn and Gloucester dioceses.

For more information, and to book, please click [here](#).

Called Connected Committed: Educating for Hope and Aspiration- Embracing and Nurturing Diversity in Leadership

The latest CofE Podcast features John Lynch, the first Black Headteacher in Brighton and Croydon, who discusses his journey as a Headteacher. He shares his experiences and insights as a trailblazer in the education system and how he overcame barriers to become a successful leader. To listen to the podcast, please click [here](#).

Would you like to train as a SIAMS inspector?

The next SIAMS Inspector training commences in September 2023 with the deadline for applications by 31 March 2023. Further information about the training is available [here](#).

Dates of interest....

St David's Day

1 March 2023

World Book Day

2 March 2023

Commonwealth Day

14 March 2023

Cultivation Street Week

6-12 March 2023

British Science Week

10-19 March 2023

St Patrick's Day

17 March 2023

Red Nose Day

17 March 2023

World Poetry Day

21 March 2023

World Water Day

22 March 2023

National Day of Reflection

23 March 2023

Mothering Sunday

19 March 2023

News from the DfE

Handling strike action in schools

Guidance for school leaders, governing bodies and employers. Please click [here](#) for more.

News from Ofsted

Annual Report 2021-22

To see the report, please click [here](#).

If you would be interested in becoming an inspector, and would like to discuss this, please contact [Phil Knowles](#).



Free Webinars

Looking for a programme that supports pupils to develop courageous advocacy, leadership and character through social action? Come and find out more about the **Archbishops' Young Leaders Award** Programme through free online sessions this term for both Primary and Secondary schools. Find out more and sign up [here](#).

Building connections between school and church

The latest blog, 'How the Young Leaders Award can connect schools and local churches', gives lots of examples of how schools have used the Young Leaders Award to facilitate and improve relationships with their local church. You can read the blog here: abyt.com/news

A Lent resource is expected soon and further information will follow.



News from the Diocesan MAT

Welcome to Pete Bloomfield who started as MAT CEO in January.



NPQs reminder for February 2023 – sign up for programmes by Thursday 16 February

From February 2023 the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi Academy Trust and Diocese of Norwich are offering the following Church of England NPQs – Leading Teaching (NPQLT), Senior Leader (NPQSL), Headship (NPQH), Leading Teacher Development (NPQLTD), Leading Behaviour and Culture (NPQLBC) as well as Early Headship Coaching Offer (EHCO).

Why do an NPQ this February?



To celebrate 20 years, School Edit has an extra special saving until the **31 January 2023**. School's that take out a subscription will get 20 months free as part of the buy 20 months get another 20 month free. This helps with budgeting as it means nothing else to pay on your selected package until May 2026.

School Edit is a website builder that makes it very simple to create an attractive website that you can update yourself and has lots of features to help schools' including calendar, podcasts as well as unlimited web pages.

School Edit includes telephone support so you can contact their UK based support team with any queries on your website. To find out more and get a username to try for your school, visit www.schooledit.co.uk.



To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Fischy Music has lots of exciting events and new songs to share throughout 2023.

Children of all ages (at home or at school) are invited to join **Fischy Online Concerts** with exclusive new song previews and lots of opportunities to build confidence singing together again. For more information, please click [here](#). For more on Fischy

1. It's true what they say, the best things in life are FREE! and we have the best NPQ Offer yet. Our NPQs:

- Are fully funded
- Fit flexibly around your teaching
- Are underpinned by expert coaching, all of whom are serving or retired Headteachers
- Are highly recommended - what do the current cohort (NPQLT cohort 2) say about us?
 - 100% Overall participant satisfaction
 - 100% Coaches and facilitators are knowledgeable and engaging
 - 100% feel better equipped to lead others effectively
 - 100% say that they have been motivated to engage with research and evidence

2. Did you know that the DfE funds all Church of England NPQs for Teachers and leaders employed in state funded schools?

3. Our aim is to ensure 'that where a child lives has no bearing on the quality of teaching they receive'. We are therefore especially encouraging small, rural schools, to consider taking up our NPQ offer. For every teacher that takes up a free NPQ, the school will receive a £200 payment to support.

For further information or to apply, please visit:

www.cefel.org.uk/npq/

If you have any queries then please contact Heather Hann heather.hann@cofesuffolk.org



The Eco-Schools programme provides a simple, seven-step framework that answers the question, Where do I begin? to protect our planet, whilst empowering young people to make a difference in their school, local community and beyond. For more information, please click [here](#).

Schools that completed the Eco-Schools programme last year saved a combined £336,131.86 on their energy bills! And more incredible achievements are available in a new [impact report](#).

If you would like some quick and easy ways to get started, there is a handy list of 20 free events, activities and resources to give you a head start. Please click [here](#).

For Eco-Schools latest newsletter, please click [here](#).

School Days, please click [here](#).

Praise-along

Praise-along is a new collective worship project, uniting UK primary schools through Christian songs. The songs, written by leading children's song writer Kelly Fort, will be available from January 2023. For more information, please visit the following website [Praise-Along Music](#). For an example of Kelly's work, please click [here](#). There is no subscription fee and the songs will always be free for UK primary schools to use.

Exploring Big Science and Faith Questions in the Classroom

The Faraday Institute is running courses for primary teachers on integrating Science and RE in the primary classroom in March 2023:

6 March - How can RE help with teaching science?

7 March - How combining perspectives from both science and faith can help tackle big issues







Both courses are online, 4 - 5pm, at a cost of £50 pp.

For further information please click [here](#).

News from YOUR School

If you have any stories you would like highlighted, please do send us details and we will include in our next newsletter. Please send photos, short articles, web-page references, etc. electronically to [Jacqui](#) and we'll be pleased to include them.

From the Diocesan Education Team

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